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BOOKMARKS

Semi-Visible

By Glenn Scott

Virginian-Pilot Sunday Editor

"Gentlemen do not read each other's mail," former Secretary of State Henry L. Stimson said in 1939 as he ended the code-breaking operation of the State Department.

Stimson's gallant-if-shortsighted apothegm no doubt is as widely known in intelligence circles as Neville Chamberlain's confident assurance of peace in our time is to the English-speaking world. But the sentiment is inappropriate in what often is the least good of all possible worlds. The contest for international supremacy has been raised to the atomic degree, which may be the ultimate degree, and gentlemen do read each other's mail—on a grand scale.

Moreover, the means of gathering information about the doings of foreign powers range from employment of sophisticated eavesdropping and photographing space satellites through the systematic study of alien publications to kidnapping and torture (and murder after the subject has talked).



Scott

Further, the craft of intelligence, as former Central Intelligence Agency Director Allen W. Dulles has called it, is not confined to the collection and analysis of information. It includes the preparation and dissemination of propaganda, counterespionage and the subversion and overthrow of unfriendly governments in behalf of the national interest.

The United States is involved deeply in the flourishing Cold War business of spying. Just how deeply will come as a surprise to most Americans who until now have lacked a summary of the intelligence and espionage activities directed by the executive branch of the federal government.

In "The Invisible Government" (Random House, 375 pp., \$5.95) to be published tomorrow, David Wise New York Herald Tribune Washington bureau chief, and Thomas B. Ross, a member of the Washington bureau of the Chicago Sun-Times, have provided the first comprehensive look at this half-glimpsed world. In so doing—and agreement is far from total on this—they have performed a public service as necessary to the continued health of the republic as the operation of a secret intelligence network is to its survival.

CIA Concerned

Publication of "The Invisible Government" has made some members of the intelligence community unhappy. CIA Director John A. McCone and CIA Deputy Director Marshall S. Carter approached Random House, according to a news story by Charles W. Bailey of The Minneapolis Tribune and Des Moines Register, in an apparent effort to suppress or censor the book. They complained that the study contains errors and breaches of security.

Columnist Marquis Childs reported on May 20 that intelligence officials allege 112 breaches of security, including the identification of 26 or 27 CIA agents never before mentioned publicly and disclosure in detail of four covert CIA operations which are still active.

Newsweek's sharp-eyed reviewer found several errors in the text, said CIA alleges 120 security violations and turned up some Soviet intelligence experts who "state unequivocally that much of [the] information 'could not have been acquired by the Soviet secret service.'"

(Some official suggested that the 20,000 copies of the first printing be purchased by the government on the condition that the book be revised, but this was not done. Look Magazine has published excerpts from it, and the book itself is available in local bookstores. It will be reviewed on this page next week.)

Random House president Bennett Cerf has said allegations that the book violates security are "nonsense." He said it contains no information that has not been made public previously in newspapers, court records, congressional hearings and similar sources. Cerf said it would be contrary to the public interest to suppress the book.